

CONSERVATORIES OPENING INTO THE DWELLING-HOUSE.—Every day the many gallons of water given to the plants rise into vapour, to settle on the various objects within reach. Therefore, in the drawing-room, or the room adjoining the conservatory, there should be nothing that will take injury from damp, because it will settle in pure water on the walls, and sink into tapestry, curtains, the backs of paintings, the covers of sofas and chairs; in short, it will lie or hang in drops on whatever will not absorb it, and sink into all that will. There is no good without its evil,—no enjoyment, without some corresponding trouble to maintain it. The conservatory—so great an ornament—so exquisite a luxury—may, without care, be the means of producing sickness in the house, destroying the furniture and ornaments, and doing endless mischief, unless it be counteracted by attention. Let the throwing open of the doors be the exception, and not the rule. Keep the damp air from the house as you would a pestilence. It is delightful to smell the perfume, but it carries poison with it, if allowed to make its way all over the house.—*Glees's Journal.*

MACHINED PAPER-HANGINGS.—The *Journal of Design* says—"It is well known that it is at least some dozen years since the cotton and calico-printers of Manchester first began to print from cylinders, and it was not until within the last four or five years that the paper-stainers applied the same principle to printing papers, of a simple character, in one or two colours. At the outset their success was very moderate, being unaccustomed to the use of body colours, and unacquainted with their peculiarities and the best methods of applying them. Consequently the papers produced were of a very inferior character and quality, and did not enter into competition with the block-printed papers. Lately some of the leading printers of the "golden flock papers," in London, have turned their attention to the use of the machine; and it is most satisfactory and surprising to witness the rapidity and precision with which papers of six or eight colours are run off, the whole eight colours being printed during the passage of the papers *once through the machine*. A single machine is capable of printing in one hour 200 pieces of paper, each 12 yards long, or 1,500 pieces equal to 18,000 yards, or 54,000 feet per day. The paper upon which the patterns are printed is manufactured in lengths of 2,980 feet each: these are afterwards cut into 60 pieces, each 12 yards long."

LITHOGRAPHY.—It is stated at Munich that Mr. Nicholas Zach has discovered a new process in lithography, by which he can give to any metal plate, traced by a sharp needle, a preparation that makes the design in less than an hour show itself in relief on the metallic plate. Zach calls the process metallography.

MANUFACTURE OF DRAIN PIPES.—I observe, in the last number of *THE BUILDER*, with reference to stoneware drain pipes, you say,—"As to the pipes now manufactured, complaints are made that they have not advanced in quality: on the contrary, it would seem that the increased demand has led to slovenliness and overhaste. The manufacturers should look to this in time, or they may be superseded." Now, sir, although it is perfectly true that a great proportion of the pipes are bad, both as regards shape and material, I apprehend the cause does not arise from the "great demand" (as I believe in this neighbourhood, at least, the potters have been, generally speaking, slack), but that builders &c. prefer an inferior article to a superior one, when they get the former somewhat cheaper. The consequence is, that those potters who make a good article, find they get "cut out" by others who make an inferior one; and, as a superior article does not command a fair price, they are sufferers to a great extent, the inferior description of pipes costing considerably less to manufacture, while they sell at a trading reduction in the price. Would builders and others patronise those who make a superior quality (although they may pay a trifle more for it), you would soon find that

SURREY CONSUMERS' GAS-LIGHT ASSOCIATION.—On Friday in last week the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the works of this company at Rotherhithe was performed by the Lord Mayor, in presence of a large concourse of spectators. His lordship said he had no personal interest in the association, but he considered himself bound, upon public grounds, to support it, inasmuch as its object was to supply a good and cheap article of general consumption. The site of the buildings is close to the river. The retorts will be able to carbonize 66 tons of coal, and make 594,000 cubic feet of gas daily; or, when in full work, the annual amount of coal to be carbonized will be 24,090 tons, making 216,810,000 cubic feet of gas. Mr. F. A. Hedley is the engineer.

CARLISLE BOARD OF HEALTH.—I would beg to call your attention to an advertisement issued by the Local Board of Health of Carlisle, relative to the appointment of surveyor; as I consider they are degrading the profession of an engineer. The duties required are, that the surveyor should give plans, reports, specifications, and superintend the drainage of the city, and other works connected with the laying out of land, preserving the river banks, &c.; the whole of which duties require a person of education and ability in the profession of engineer. So far, so good; but the Board, not content with these duties, actually degrade their surveyor, and call him "inspector of public nuisances," the duties of which are, that he has to make frequent personal inspection of all the privies and other vile holes in the city, and to see that these places are preserved clean, no person being placed under him to do these duties, which a policeman could perform in a superior manner to any engineer.—P. S.

EARTH-SLIPS.—On Monday week a very extensive slip of earth (about 1,000 yards, took place within about forty yards of the Woolley Tunnel, on the Barnsley end of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The embankment had for some time been watched. "Mr. Miller, who formed the line," says a contemporary, "and whose engagements extended over twelve months, expired only a week or two ago; hence the expense now incurred falls on the company."—Also, on Monday week, owing to the recent heavy rains, a slip of considerable extent took place in the cutting of the Aberdeen railway, about half-way between Laurencekirk and Marykirk.

FIRE AT NEW-CROSS RAILWAY STATION.—A fire occurred on Tuesday night (last week) at the New-cross railway station. The building, in which much property was consumed, was 700 feet long and 39 feet wide. It was formed of this wood, similar to weather-boarding, and stretched in a continuous line along the railway from the more substantial brick buildings which form the passengers' station. Adjoining this long range of premises stood a temporary wooden shed, in which was deposited wood for lighting the fires of the various apartments in the station, and there is no doubt that the conflagration commenced in that small building. The loss will reach, according to the company's own estimate, 5,000*l.*

CANADA TIMBER.—The Lumber Trade of Canada with the United States is fast increasing. There were received in Lake Champlain the past year, from St. John's, no less than 31,755,941 feet of sawed lumber, and 1,660,000 (cubic) feet of square timber. In 1849, 12,000,000 feet of the former, and 1,150,000 of the latter. In 1847, there were received but 7,000,000 feet of lumber, and 310,000 of timber.

PLASTERER'S EXTRAS AND LOSS OF PLANS.—At the Birmingham County Court lately, an action was brought to recover 7*l.*, as a balance of plasterer's work done by plaintiff (a journeyman), for the defendant, a tradesman in Bull-street, who has land and buildings at Sobopark. A verbal agreement was come to between the parties that 12*l.* should be the price of such work, but, according to plaintiff's statement, extra walls and cornices had been added by defendant, and his demand in consequence was 20*l.* of the 12*l.* had been

paid. Mr. Norton thought the charges fair and reasonable, but Mr. J. Newey, architect and surveyor, considered 15*l.* as amply sufficient. This last witness admitted that, although he had looked at the work, and had designed the building, he had not measured the work done. At this stage of the case the judge asked for the original plan. This was said to have been lost by the workmen employed; and, under such a state of things, his Honour said, "I feel bound to order a verdict to be entered for the plaintiff for the amount claimed."

THE GLASGOW ATHENÆUM.—One of those distinguished meetings, so characteristic not only of this age, but of this country, in which the noblest aristocracy in the world holds out the right hand of fellowship and goodwill to a people of whom none but rivals, emulous in the same good cause, ever hesitate to attribute a nobility no less superlative, took place on the 24th ult., when the Duke of Argyll for a whole hour-and-a-half absorbed the attention and the interest of more than 2,000 persons assembled in the great City Hall of Glasgow, as friends and promoters of the Athenæum in that city. Lord Eglintoun, Sheriff Alison, the Lords Provost of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and others also addressed the meeting, which "went off" with great eclat.

HELL WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.—We understand forty-four sets of designs were sent in, varying in cost from 5,544*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* to 23,000*l.* and differing as widely in style and character as in estimate. The committee devoted five days to their examination, and, from the report, it seems they were of opinion that although a number of the designs possessed many, and some of them most, of the essential requisites, yet that the design of Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson contains the best combination of them all. The building will accommodate 763 inmates, including the vagrants. The style of architecture is Italian, and the estimated cost 9,945*l.* The second premium was awarded to Mr. Moffatt, of Doncaster.

THE ARTERIAN WELL AT SOUTHAMPTON.—The boring for water at the Arterian well on Southampton Common, from which the town has been partially supplied with water for the last few years, and which has been looked upon as such an interesting experiment by the whole of the geologists of England, is to be stopped. The boring is nearly 2,000 feet deep. It must have ruined the original contractors. Either geology is greatly at fault, or ignorance has had the conduct of this unfortunate undertaking.

BRASS IN MEMORY OF MR. BARRELL, ELY CATHEDRAL.—In our notice of this brass in Ely Cathedral, last week, we omitted to mention that it was executed by the Messrs. Waller, and we now gladly supply the deficiency. Messrs. Waller are striving very efficiently for the re-introduction of memorial brasses: they are preparing a large specimen of the art for the Great Exhibition.

SURVEY OF SWANSEA.—As I am able to satisfy, or partly so, "A Civil Surveyor," I do so with pleasure, by quoting the enclosed from the *Cambrian*.—"Several gentlemen connected with the Ordnance Department have arrived at Swansea, and they commenced the triangulation survey of the borough on Monday last,—a task which will, we understand, occupy their attention for five or six weeks. The rest of the survey will be carried out by Mr. Gant, the new resident surveyor of the local board." It is rather, I think, uncourteous in the Swansea Board of Health making no further disclosure of their proceedings to the competitors than the fact of their tenders being unaccepted. The least they could have done would have been to have given, in their circular, a list of the tenders, and their intentions with respect to them. It seems to me that they, in the first place, wanted a good survey, and afterwards discovered they had not sufficient funds to pay for it. I trust there is yet time for some friend of the family to prove practically that they are swivel-necked, and to turn them to the right about.—GUTHRIE.